

Dated March 22^d, 1824
W. L. H
Drawn

By
James T. May
of
Georgia.

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The object of this paper, is to speak of the below fever, as it occurred in the county in which I reside, during the summer and autumnal months of the year 1822.

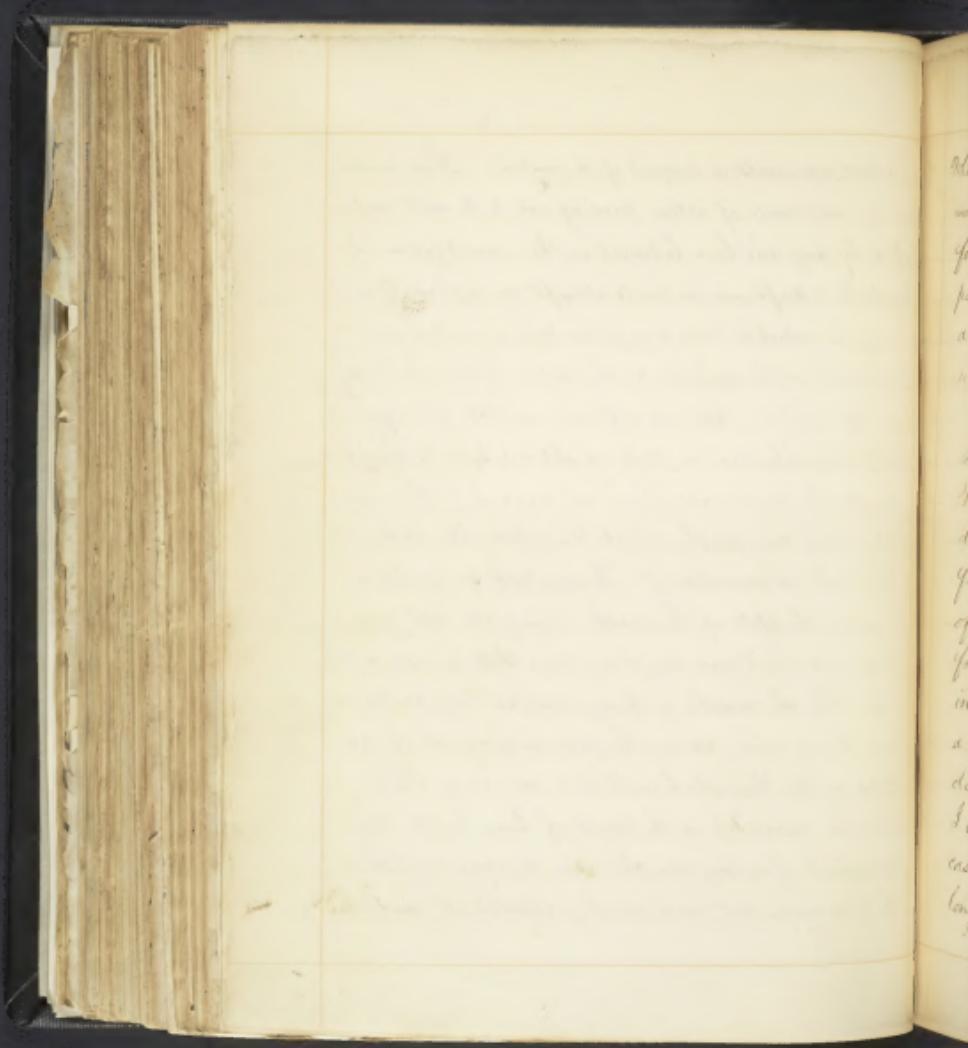
With this disease, our inhabitants have been acquainted from experience, ever since the first settlement of the country, but during the last year, it presented to an extent unprecedented in its history, and in a violence of form, which often baffled the skill of our most enlightened, and experienced practitioners.

Cause.

Mosch miasmate, were conceded to be the general remote causes of this complaint. That they may contribute to generate this, in common with Intermittent Fever, we can entertain no doubt, when we take into view the local situation of those places in which it most frequently occurred, and the fact, that both forms of fever are not unfrequently observed in the same habitation. That they are concerned in its production, is I believe universally admitted; I consider it therefore unnecessary to adduce facts,

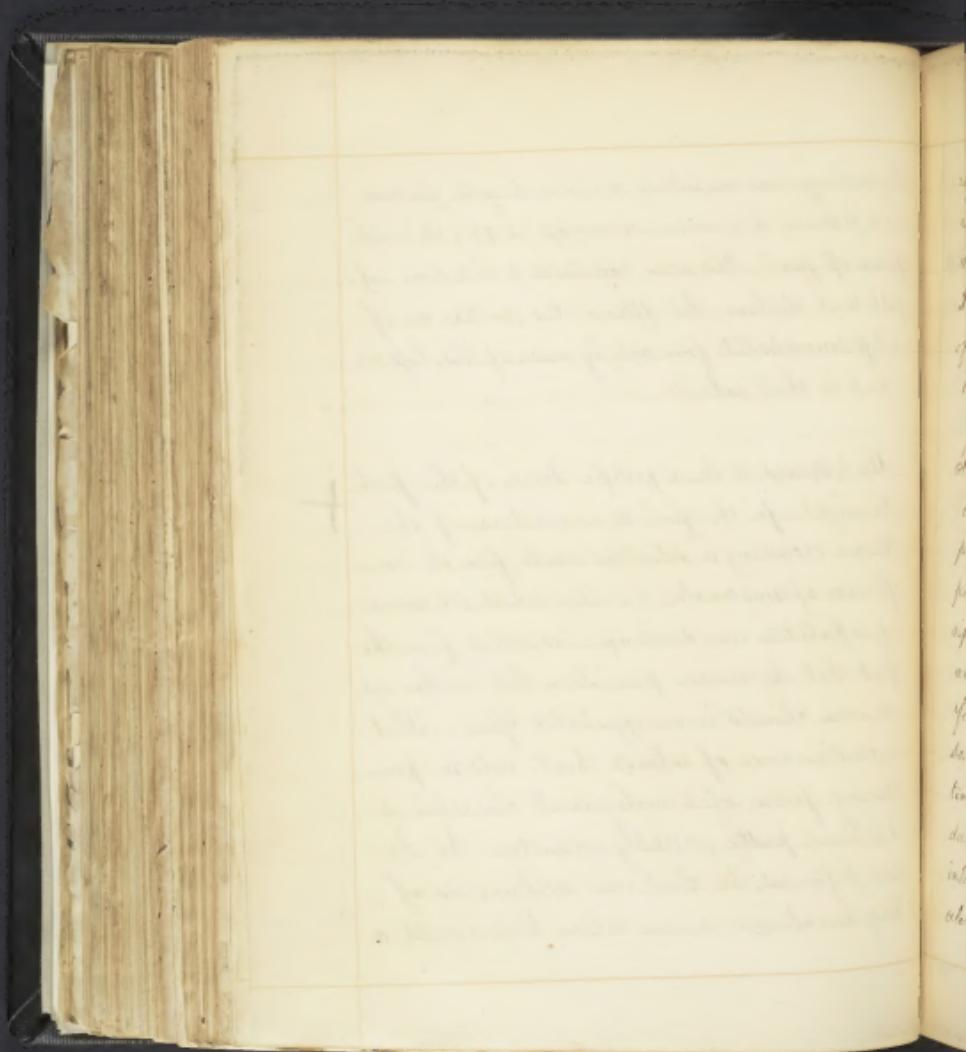
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or collect arguments, in support of the position?... Their precise
nature and mode of action seeming not to be well under-
stood, by any who have laboured in their investigation, it
would be superfluous in me to attempt an explanation.
It has been asserted that their action is in a great degree
dependent on the condition of the surface, from which they
are eliminated, - that the effluvia emitted from ground
but moderately wet, are those which contribute to the pro-
duction of this disease. I can not pretend to state any
thing which can greatly affect this assumption, either to
invalidate, or maintain it. Having kept no regular ac-
count of the state of the weather during the last year,
I am unable to give any thing more than a rude out-
line. In the months of Spring, we had long continued
and heavy rains, during the prevalence of which, no
cases of this fever, do I recollect as occurring. These
rains, were succeeded in the month of June, by the com-
mencement of a long drought, upon the accession of which
the fever broke out, and widely extended its ravages.



While the grounds were entirely covered with water, few cases were to be seen in their immediate vicinity, excepting the milder forms of fever. This seems calculated to lend some support to the doctrine, that effluvia thus emitted, are of a less concentrated form, and by reason of this, less violent in their action.

Heat, seemed to be a prolific source of this fever. +
We might infer this from the circumstance of the disease occurring in situations remote from the influence of miasmata, and when indeed all sources of exhalation were dried up... as well as from the fact that the disease prevails in hot weather, and in warm climates in an aggravated form. That a continuance of intense heat, acts in producing fevers of a malignant character, is I believe, pretty generally admitted. In the case before us, the heat was excessive, and of long duration; - we were seldom blessed with a



refreshing shower.. and when we are visited with a
rain, its effects are transient, being confined to a
more temporary reduction of temperature.

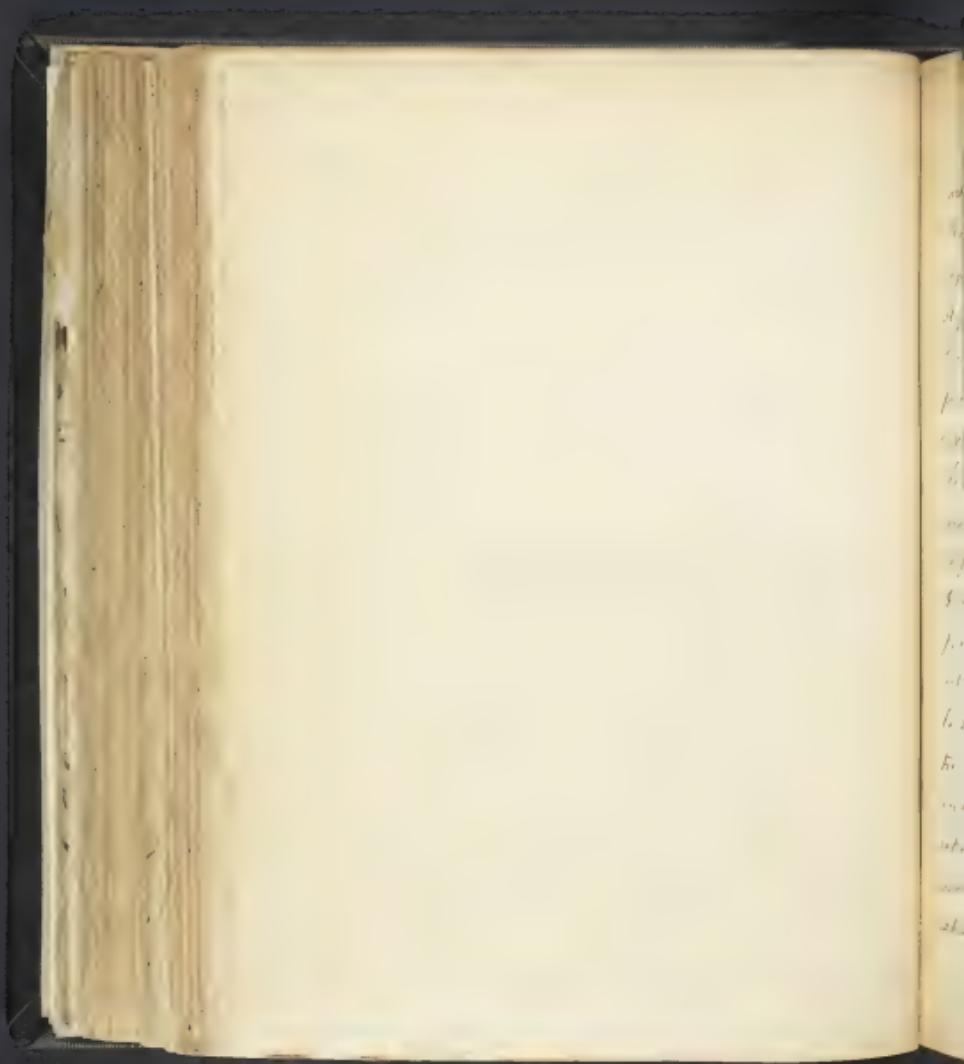
I might have mentioned many of the common causes
of fever as noticed by writers, as whatever would
tend to debilitate the body, or deprive the mind of

The exciting causes were various, and in some cases
could not distinctly be traced, the remote here
probably acting as exciting. Intemperance in eating,
particularly of fruit, overloading the Stomach with an-
ripe fruit, or eating to satisfy that which was mature
and not unwholesome, seemed sometimes to excite the
fever. - Intemperance in drinking, would have the
same effect. By a debauch, the Stomach and Sys-
tem, are left in a condition favourable for the pro-
duction of disease, or this is immediately brought
into action... Heat, deserves a place here also, ac-
celerating the establishment of the disease, by deranging

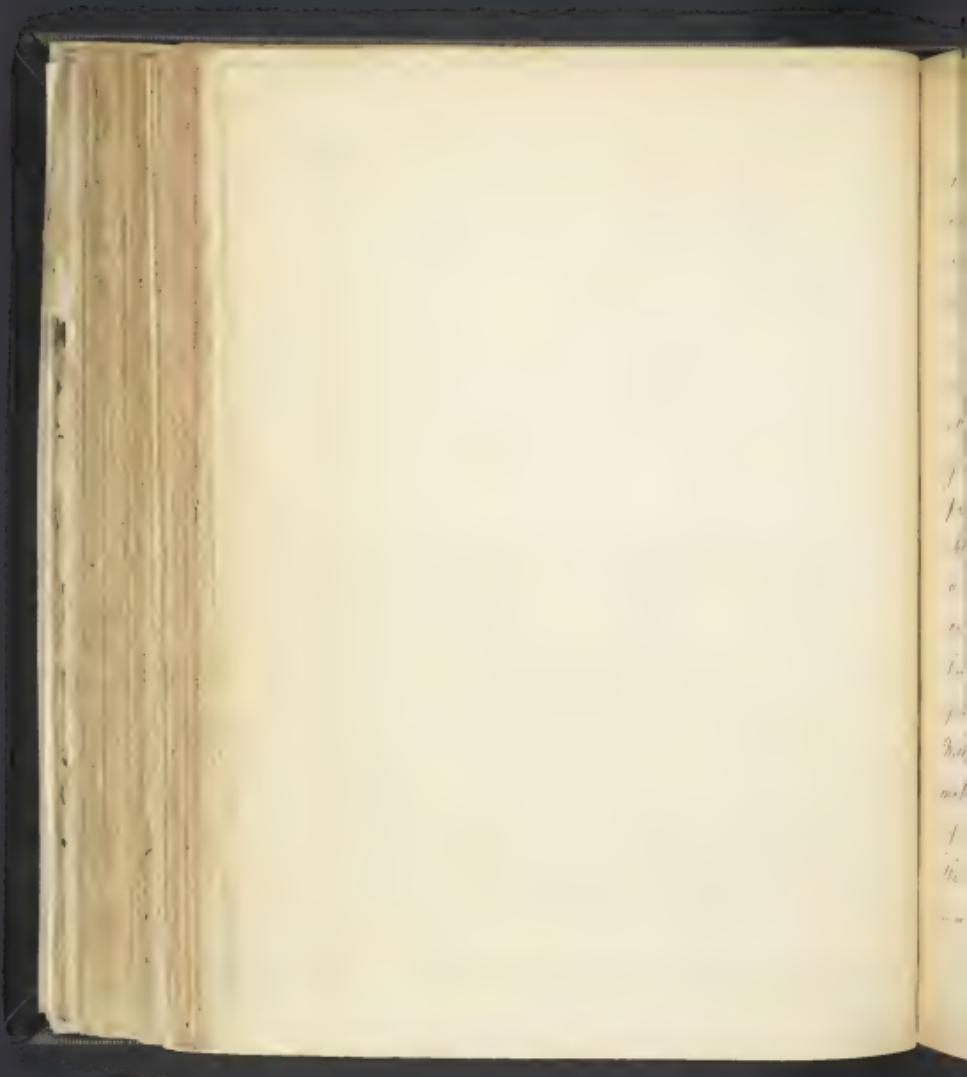
of the circulation, and the formation of the inter-
nal signs. And, especially to sudden opposition
when the temperature was considerably raised would
excite the fever.

Symptoms.

Our practitioner concurred in my opinion about
the complaint that it was for inflammatory char-
acter. This opinion, however, was not derived
from, or confirmed by, post mortem examination. So
I did not oppose him of testing by his test, but
was, however, a considerable time after his first
opinion and the result of ours, which was im-
mediately contradicted to his opinion. As, however,
the disease, was perhaps in the early division, but
I find it not so easy to give an accurate detail
of its symptoms. Some striking traits however
strongly marked. In those of course, analogous
character were easily to be observed. Not unfor-
tunately, the patient was seized with a violent fever



and, and it gave undisturbed sleep without the power to do so.
Most curiously however, the attack was preceded by the usual
signs of the disease - a fever, & perhaps a slight headache &
slight stiffness. This is almost fatal, & leads to a
few, bad, and extremely painful fits. On the
present a great portion of his head was covered
with a red and swollen skin, & the rest of the skin of
the attack. Great trouble was taken to fit him
comfortably by the first & easiest means - taking of
a soft & warm sheet, & covering him with
a heavy coat & blanket before the addition of the
sheet, was exactly what an unaccustomed patient re-
quires. Somehow I think there was a little advantage, and
he somewhat improved and got rid of the H. Inv., & so
firmly that about 2, and in the first fit, if of the
usual severity, often in a short time passes. His
attack was terminated at the beginning of last night, and
continued still, & the next morning he was
able to walk his - He took a walk, & was



several, for the patient was then said to be
excited with a delirious fit, which had almost re-
covered, before our coming to see him. When we first saw him
he did not know where he was, & again, upon inquiry,
said not I care. He was then seated down in a chair,
with his eyes closed. At the most intervals
attended him; & I prepared to take the pulse, when
yelling like a parrot he said so loud you could
hear him round.

About this time, he began to talk in a confused
manner, inferring the patient had passed away, with the
expressions that it must have been a stroke of death.
So I only went purpose to help the doctor, who
present then at the door of recovering health
With respect to the point of termination, I do not find
make no marks which can be applicable to any particular
of cases. Medical aid was often not solicited, & when
the case was a few days advanced, and then I would com-
municate fatality, or if I could, it would be accordingly

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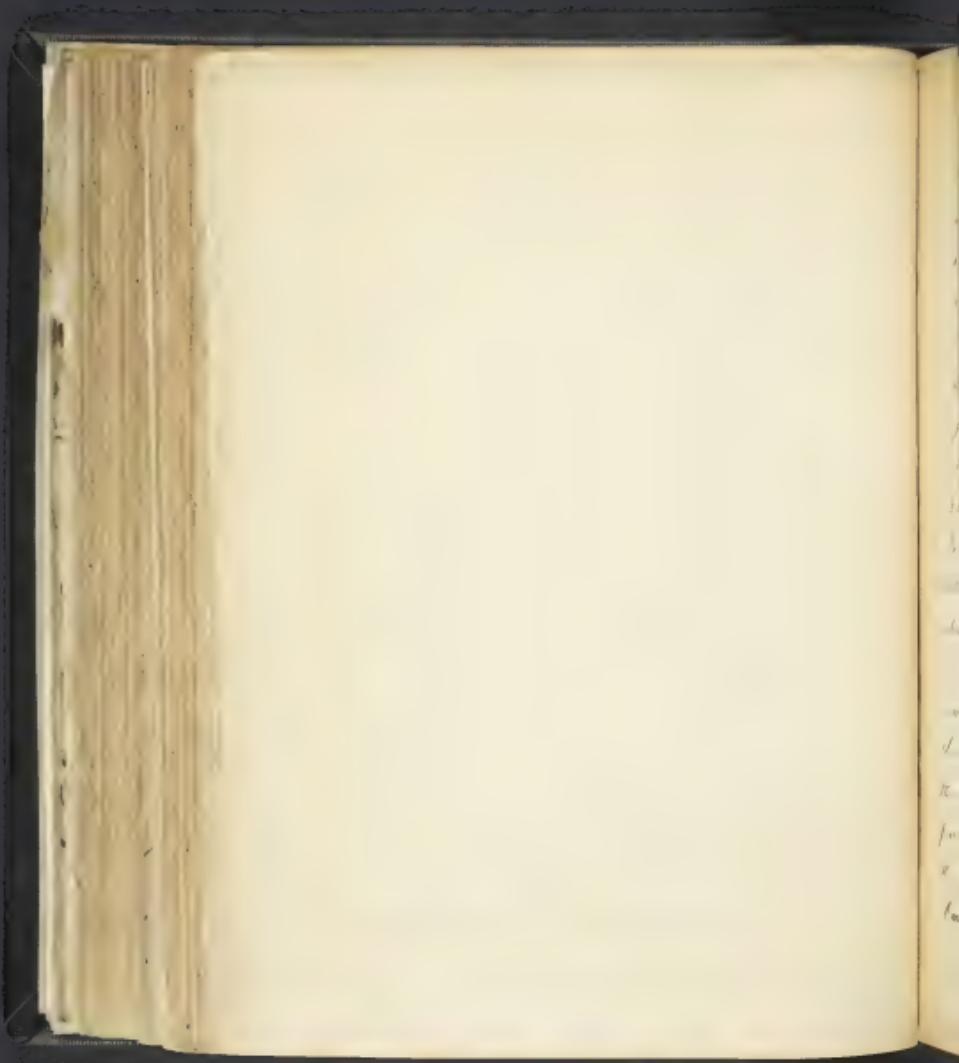
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posterior skin takes a dark purplish green hue & is
frequently covered with a thin layer of
slimy excretion of a greenish colour, & may
be easily rubbed off in drops, and often appears terminated
fatally in this short period, owing to the character
of the disease and neglect of a timely resort to medicine.

Treatment.

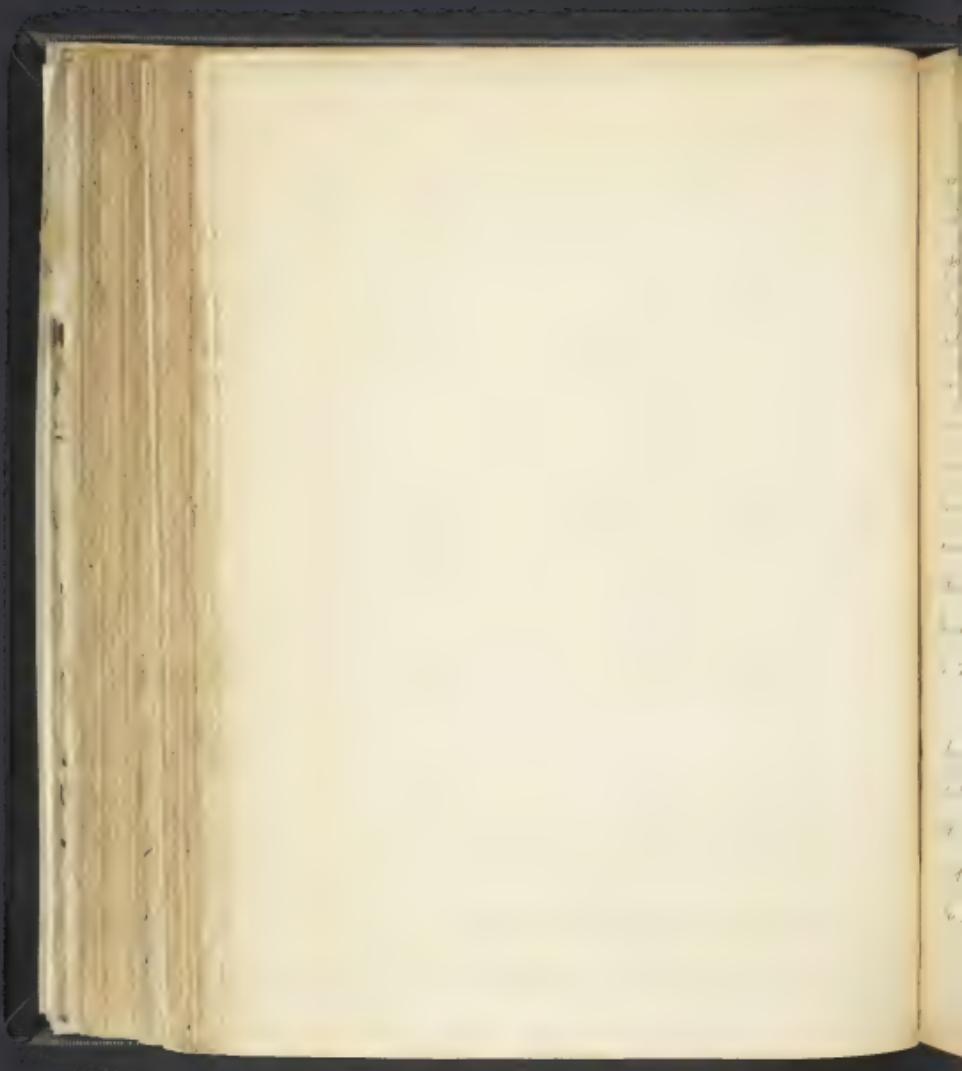
You asked if this was an inflammatory affection, it
certainly had a resolution before it became a mortifying affection.
The leading consideration then is to ~~keep~~ ^{keep} the skin clean &
dry & to prop the skin down so that it is not rubbed &
scratched more promptly or severely than is ~~best~~ ^{best}, but
applied at the proper intervals. The specific application
was sometimes a salve, & I used to ^{the} ~~use~~ a very large
quantity of it from a very long time of practice. It does
not however take up an additional ulcer, & a great deal
more perhaps sometimes detracted from an employment of the
measure, particularly in an advanced stage. But we should
be in mind not to attend so much to the state of the disease,



with the condition of the system. When we find our patient with a full strong pulse, hot skin, diffused countenance, no evidences of a determination to the brain, what a better criterion to advocate these methods than a general practice? At the outset of the disease, there is no danger which can result from the practice, and ⁱⁿ its further progress, we are called upon to resort to the remedy, for the purpose of relieving congestion. Then topical bleeding was substituted under an impression that it would be less debilitating, & a more direct effort.

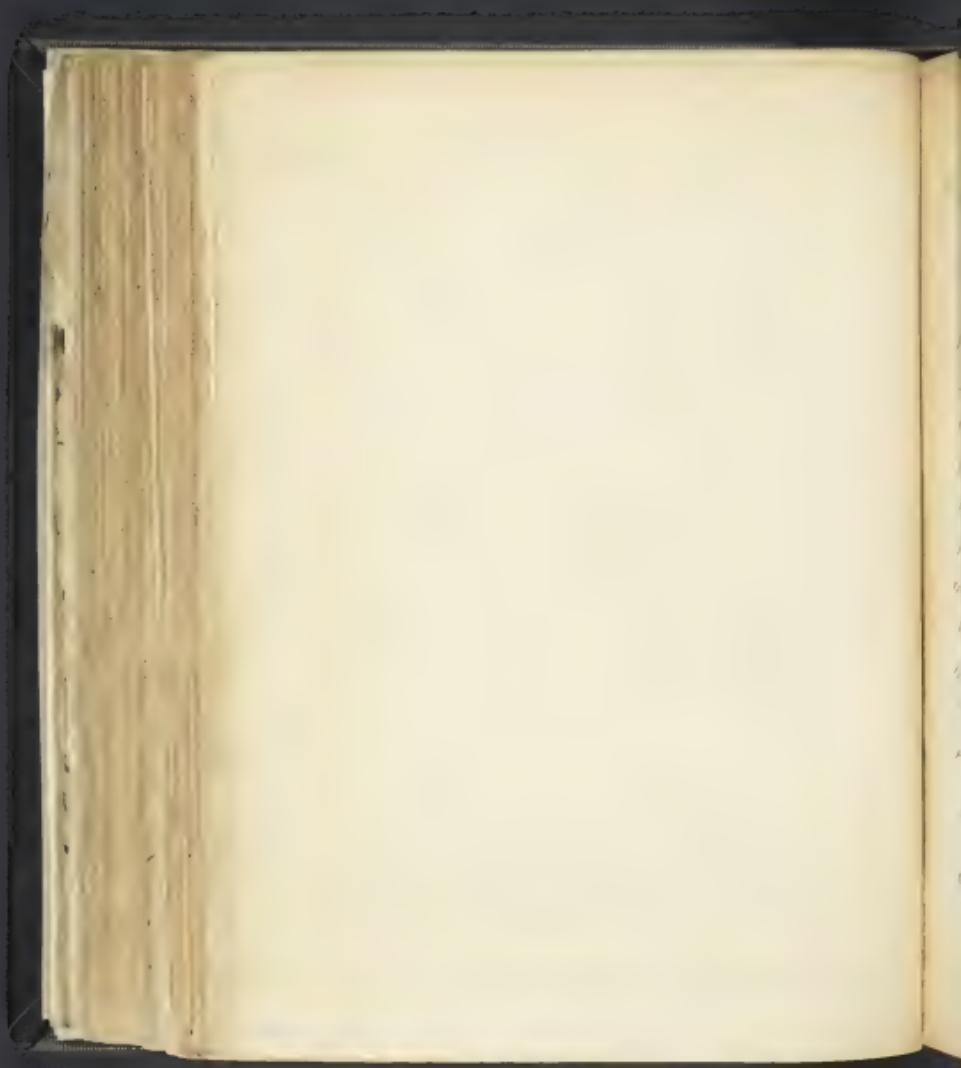
The shorter period of time is devoted to resolution, and during the exacerbation of the paroxysm. In the number of cases in a system is left in a condition in which it can be stimulated by a resort to the remedy. Then it is, that we have the greatest reason to dread its debilitating agency. May not the discredit which the remedy has attained of late years, in part be ascribed to its employment at an improper period of the disease?

One of the earliest, & most formidable of exploded elements



and no affection, as it whence could be of the stomach, it had
always pain and it felt this was a sign, but could be done
for me yet at all. So this first of view, consideration has made
slighty consideration. It has prepared the way in these
tables of other medicines, and promoted her formation, also
now. A certaine number being after its abdication, in its
restitutive power, considerating my unployed, & function
now more acutely in women. But it is a quality which
requires great determination in the physician's practice,
and I desire of you its employment. It is to this cause of
so much painfullness, if a medical cause who wanted
but the proper compunction. To determine this, the physician
is to be guided by his own judgment.

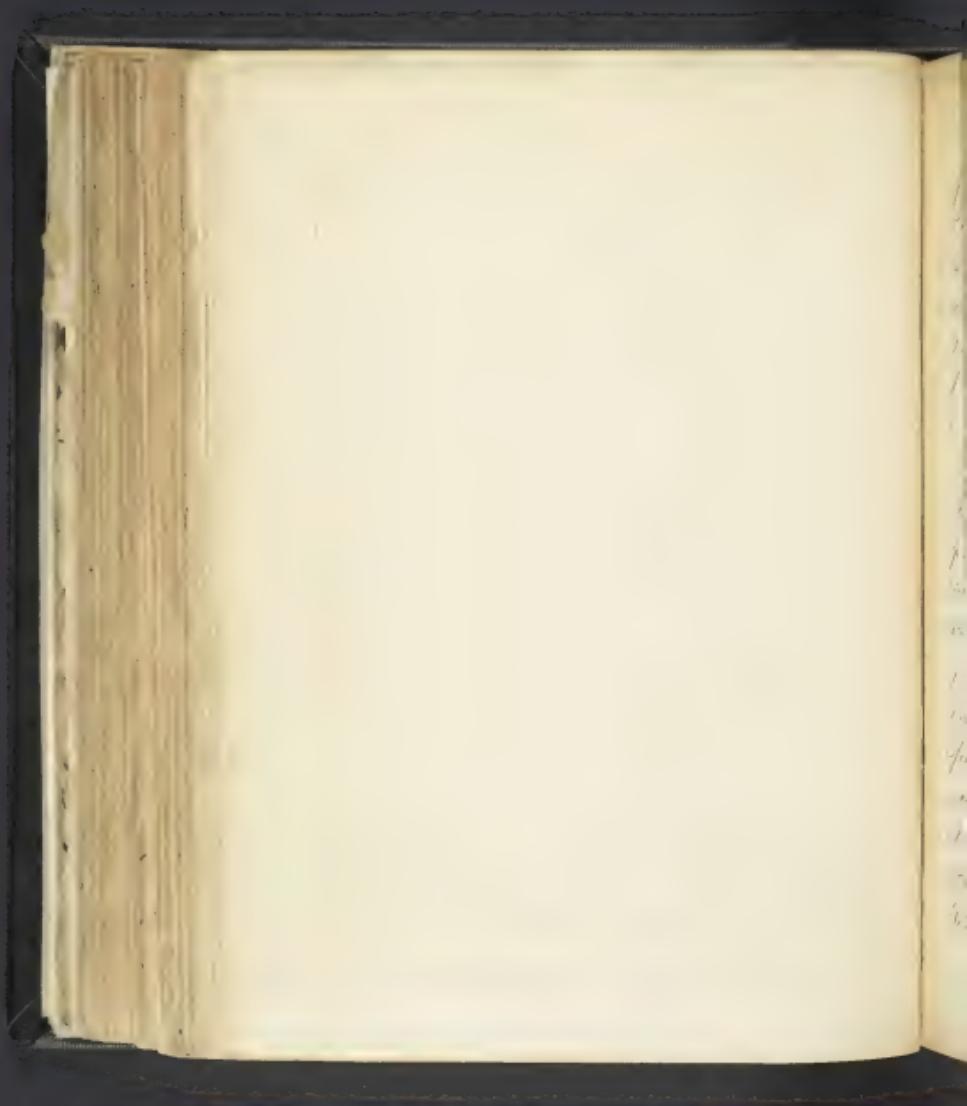
Now to the extreme severity of the strake and of the anguish
it had to increase in this case of the unployed
the management of this complaint. In my will cases
for consideration had been provided to a considerable ex-
tent, they were found of less advantage. But for



are easily affected by the unusual, we find by
letter which

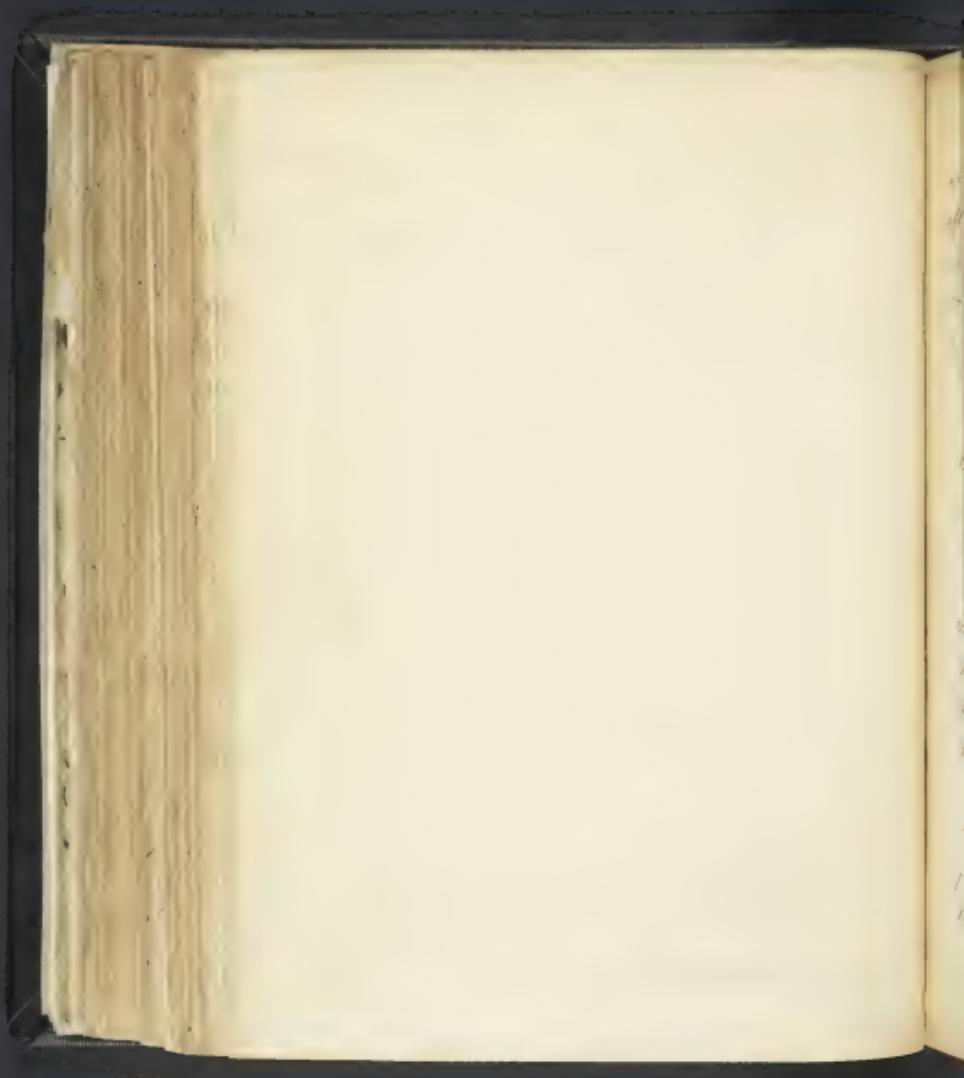
There is a very bad spot in the management of
the Disease, but of educated in almost every State.
It is yet true to medical practice in particular, one
relaxed, relaxed, was nearly gone, so also in a
combination with other for gathering, Salty, Salty
Water &c. I am aware of the various which have
been successfully employed upon our patients, for
this kind of employment is necessary in the manage-
ment of felonies & fistula. It is not my wish to say
that this feature is wholly unmention'd in the remedy
which have been adopted by us, but I am in such

a minority of patients, it will not be
easily written only employed in the management
of the Disease. When you given climate
admitted in all lands to be of a more malignant
character than that which occurs in colder latitudes.
If we is the name of the Disease, just dangerous



of & function of his organ being taken place. Of all
the vapors which compose the atmosphere of the phys-
ician no one has been found to produce a decided
improvement in the hepatic apparatus as we know.
When there is a violent secretion and accumulation of
f. & h. as in Mr. Edwards case it is very difficult calculated
to tell us exactly what vapor will affect him best
but when the disease is chronic as in Dr. Johnson's
it is plain we may be safe in selecting the "Purumokhi". This vapor at a time is nearly
unconscious to the subject.

Cold air except from the sun's radiation where the
power was far more intense than in winter has
acted rather in the proportion of about 188 to 18
from the former to one of the latter. When the sun's whole
radiation is even a small proportion as additional
of his method would be derived from which
the happiest effects are occasionally to be derived.
This is a very inexpensive remedy if patient and if

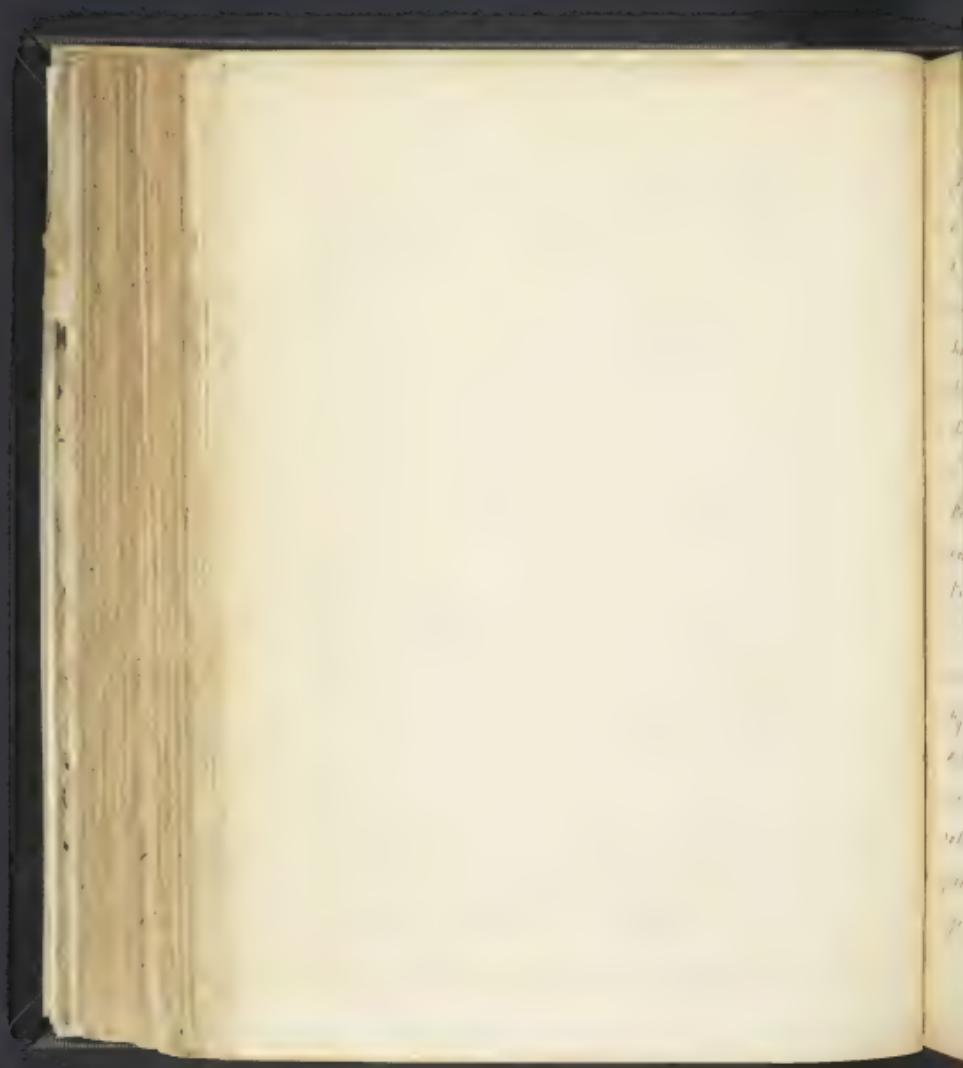


aware of our intention even if now it be decided, but being
effacious, we should certainly disregard the temporary
unpleasantness it occasions. The emetic which was not usually
concerned with external disorders will, my other views allow,
suffice, of course, to operation I am about.

The projected method advantages not in want of
attention, I mean convenience of administration. From
its insipidity and smallness of bulk, it can be given
as retained; when almost any other article is
instantly rejected.

After largely excavating the alimentary canal by this
method & leaves were left in a stable state in the
urine salt water no sneezing. It was often
found necessary to injure this previously, to aid in
the operation of the cathartics.

Mental excitement being reduced by the vigorous em-
ployment of the fomenting regimen, we next resorted
to the use of staphylinées. We always selected those



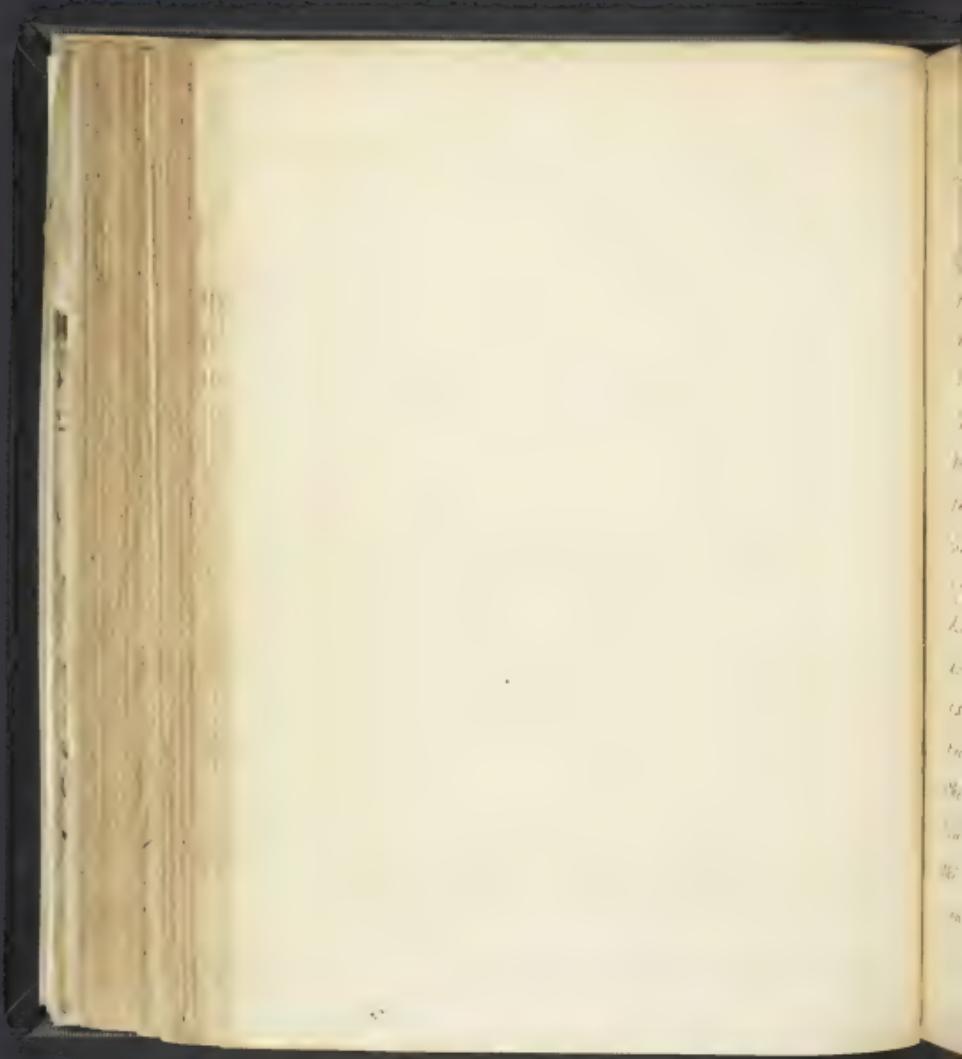
of its most Reid's returning! violent application of the
most violent measures. Of these, the carbuncles were found
to be preferable, and accordingly were selected. - a. v. p. d. 34
it did not distract them in such doses, as would produce any un-
desirable effects of trismus or violent convulsions. If this
did occur, we either discontinued them for a time, or gradually
diminished the dose. I know that Dr. Cullen now does
not consider that one good effect will result from the application of
the external medicinal, as he considers it, granules,
contrary to his place. And when Dr. met passing friends
tend to controvert an opinion, as ^{cannot} conceive medicines having
but one good effect, although coming from such respectable
authority. If the external preparation do good largely
by inducing nausea & violent motion, why may not it
substitute other article certainly as prompt in this re-
spect? His good friends do well not to be immuni-
zato with the degree of inspiration they exert it. It
is clearly we observed patients to be more relieved, when
gentle perspiration was induced, than when S. most



proper sweating removed. We are constrained to believe that these medicines have a specific action, as they are
eminently useful in affections, where hundred articles are
of little avail. We wished to have readily y use them
in the time of Epidemic fevers, but in vain, as no coloring
agents circumstances demand, - again in the form
of the Antimonial Powders.

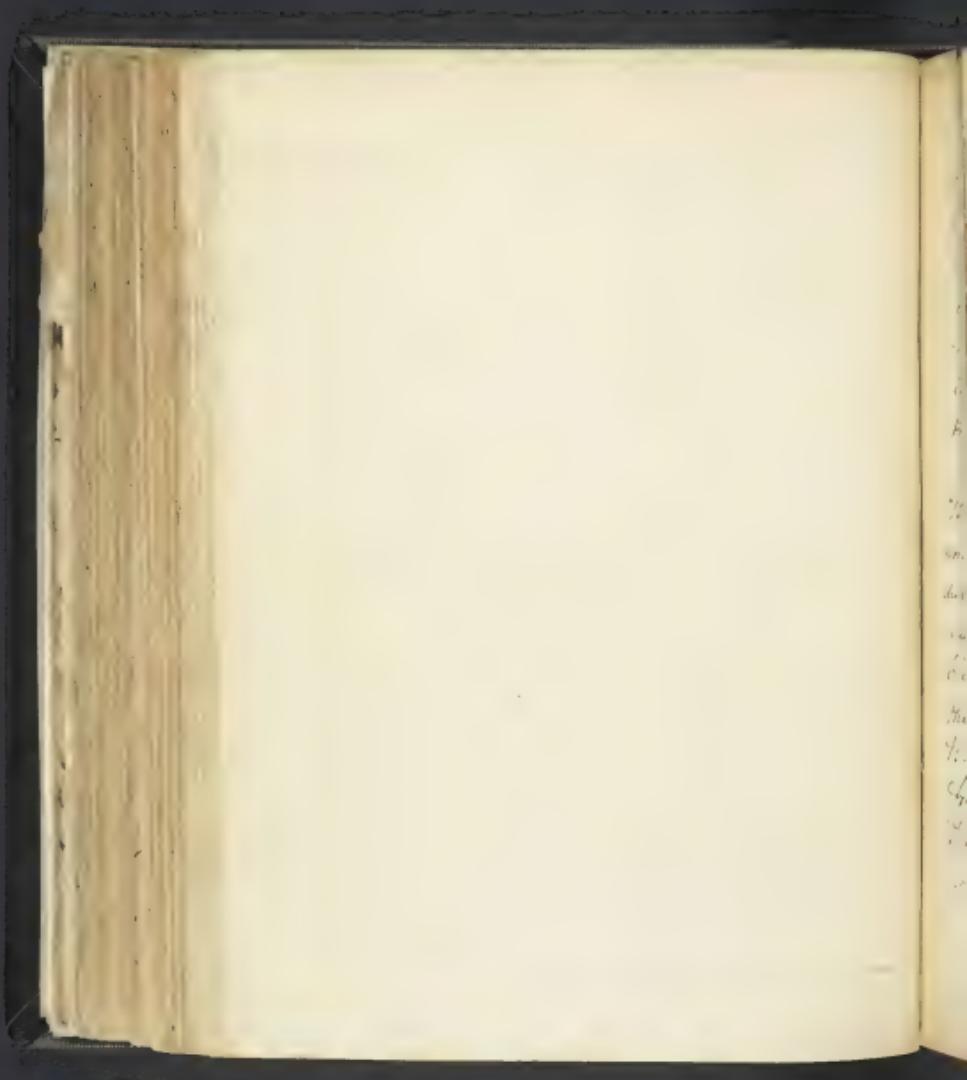
The natural medicine we get round, is the water -
particularly the former, retaining more agreeable to the per-
sonal and possessing every advantage with the latter.
It would tend not only to cleanse the skin, but
to quiet the irritability of the stomach, to allay the con-
cessive thirst, with which the patient was continually
harassed, and to keep the bowels in a proper condition.
Success however, we attribute more to the power of the
terebinth in its ...

The distilled Spirit of Water, we found to be exceedingly
useful, given alone, or in combination with tanninum,
and its tannous salts, with particular extracts of H.



Dr. Johnson's Case, etc.

Cold & Iciness. If you will try it, you will find
the emanation of this condition. Dr. Foster
tells us, that the action is not so much to stop
it to the situation of the Stomach that gives
impulse and power to the contraction, giving
tonic to it. Dr. Johnson maintains that his patient
the evening of the 1st, by what he terms "catarrhal"
stomachic dyspepsia; he can't eat, last three o'clock
dinner in this disease was out of place. They
seemed to have some action in mitigating this, which
was not an unimportant point, when now the
extreme irritability of the Stomach, even taking the
tasted or morsel, would be instantly rejected. The
physician was so anxious that the patient would some
times abominally bleed, were it told water when
this was permitted to be given him, which sometimes
would be by his friendly. He would instantly reject

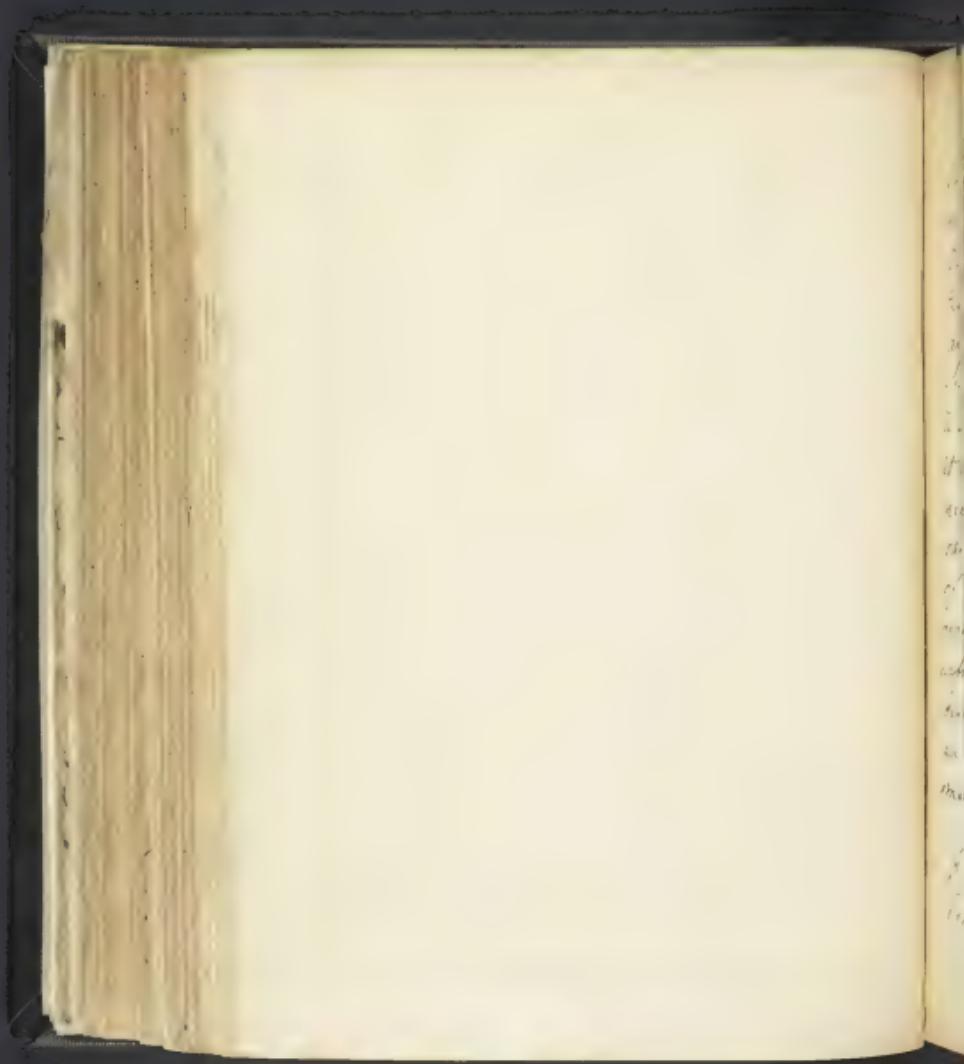


it and is left in a more disfigured condition than before. Applying cloths wet with water, or vinegar and water, to the Head & sponging the surface with cold water, were the Modes usually resorted to. Submerging the patient to immerse his hands and elbows in vessels filled with water, would produce a tranquillizing effect, and sometimes induce sleep.

Blisters, were regarded as important remedies, in the management of this disease. In an early period of the disease, gastric irritability, as I have already mentioned, was one of the most troublesome affections. A large blister, applied over the region of the stomach, was the surest means of relieving this symptom.

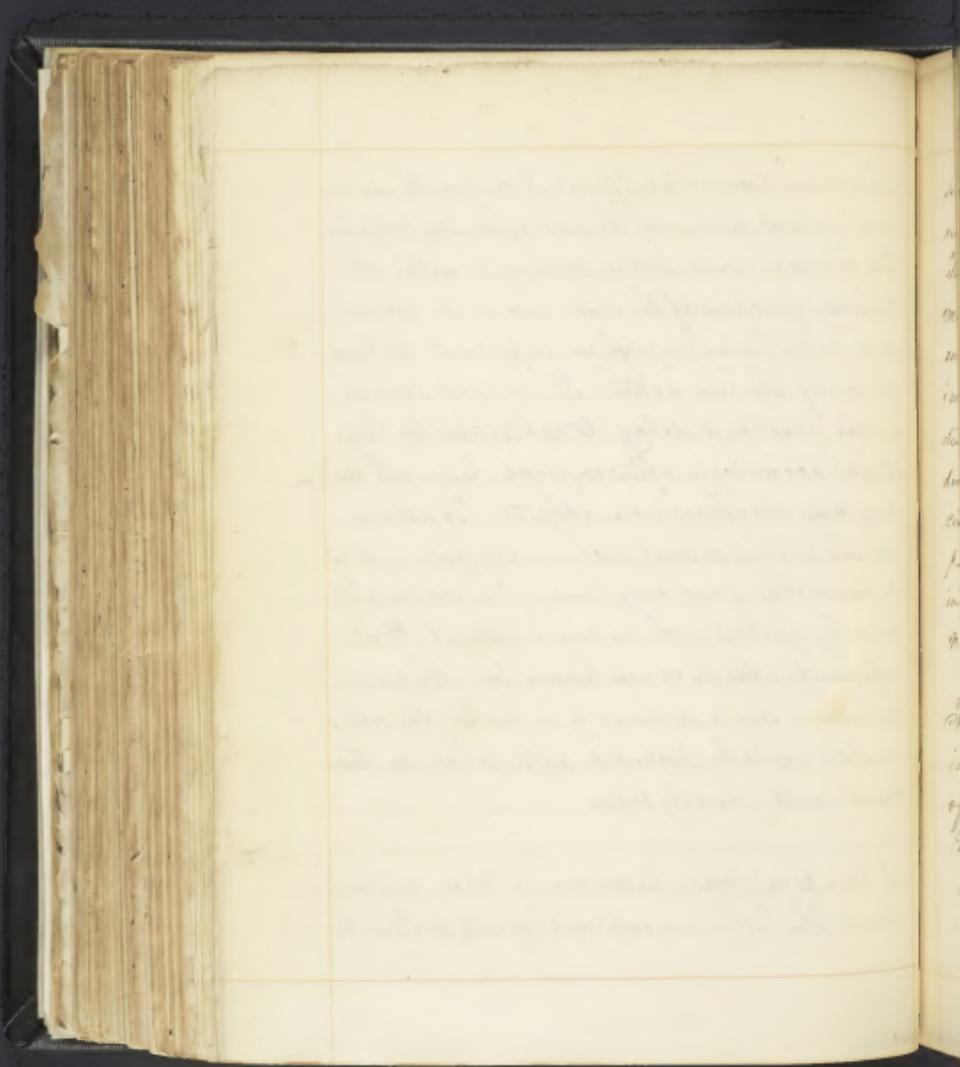
Blister were also applied to the Head, after the quieted employment of cold applications.

their application, to the枕骨, was never resorted to when the patient was observed in a violent condition.



These means proving insufficient to conquer the disease,
Mercury was given with the view of exciting Ptyalism.
The medicine would tend in this way, to restore the
healthy functions of the liver, and by its general
and revolutionary impression, supplant the Yers
by one of its own action. It was not deemed
a safe practice to delay its exhibition too long;
it was accordingly often employed, before all the
preceding measures were adopted. To attain
the end in view, Calomel was usually given in doses
of two or three grains, every hour or two, occasionally
aided by friction with mercurial ointment. Not
unfrequently, after the mouth became sore, the medi-
cine would seem to determine to the bowels; tan-colour-
ed stools would be discharged, after which an ame-
norrhea would generally ensue.

I have as yet, made no mention of tonics, or stimu-
lants. The latter were employed only to sustain the



sinking condition of the system, and were such as are usually exhibited under similar circumstances. — There was so little reminiscence in the Fleet, that the former, were rarely employed. When resorting to Colombo, and Pernambuco, were deemed preferable to the Persian Bark. The latter article, would occasion too much distress of the Stomach, & general inequitude, and indeed would not prove so efficacious as the other Medicines. It has been almost entirely discarded by our physicians in their practice; a circumstance, perhaps in part to be imputed to the article furnished us, not being the genuine bark. —

I now have I completed an imperfect description of this disease. For the numerous defects of this essay, I have only to plead in palliation that it was prepared, under the most embarrassing circumstances. —

December 1823.

